



OSLDPS Fact Sheet

Office for State and Local
Domestic Preparedness Support

June 2001

State and Local Domestic Preparedness Support Helpline

BACKGROUND

The Office for State and Local Domestic Preparedness Support (OSLDPS), Office of Justice Programs (OJP) is the program office within the Department of Justice (DOJ) responsible for enhancing the capacity and preparedness of state and local jurisdictions to respond to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) incidents of domestic terrorism. OSLDPS' State and Local Domestic Preparedness Program accomplishes this through its training, exercises, equipment grants and technical assistance programs. Assistance provided by OSLDPS is directed at a broad spectrum of state and local emergency responders, including firefighters, emergency medical services, emergency management agencies, law enforcement, and public officials.

In 1997, the Department of Defense (DoD) initiated the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici (NLD) Domestic Preparedness Program in response to Congressional direction, which included the creation of a chemical biological Helpline for first responders nationwide. The DOJ, through OSLDPS, is continuing the Helpline and has added additional capabilities in response to lessons learned and feedback from local, state, and federal emergency response and support agencies.

HELPLINE OVERVIEW

The Helpline is a **non-emergency** resource available for use by emergency responders across the United States. The Helpline provides general information on all of the OSLDPS' programs and information on the characteristics and control of WMD materials, defensive equipment, mitigation techniques, and available federal assets. The Helpline provides "customer intelligence" that will aid state and local jurisdictions in building capacity in their communities to respond to a WMD terrorism incident.

OSLDPS PROGRAMS

The Helpline provides the unique service that with only one 800 number the state and local response community and support agencies can reach all of the OSLDPS available services such as:

- **WMD Training:** Provides general information on OSLDPS training available to state and local jurisdictions.
- **Centralized Scheduling Capability:** A comprehensive domestic preparedness point of contact database for scheduling OSLDPS training, exercise and other domestic preparedness related events.
- **WMD Exercises:** Provides general information on the State and Local Exercise Program and the exercise support to the cities under the NLD Domestic Preparedness Program.
- **Equipment Grants:** Provides general information on the State Domestic Preparedness Equipment Program and funding availability.
- **NLD Domestic Preparedness Program:** Provides general information on services available to the cities for equipment, training, exercises, and technical assistance.
- **Technical Assistance:** Provides general information on services available for assistance in enhancing the ability of state and local jurisdictions to develop, plan, and implement a program for WMD preparedness. The three specific areas are:
 - General Technical Assistance
 - State Strategy Technical Assistance
 - Equipment Technical Assistance

- **Domestic Preparedness Support Information Clearinghouse:** A clearinghouse of information on domestic preparedness, counter terrorism, and WMD information available to state and local jurisdictions, which includes the ability to order publications and videos. (*Currently under construction. Available late summer 2001*).

WMD EXPERTISE

The Helpline offers technical assistance in **non-emergency** cases to state and local emergency responders and public officials. Dedicated operators are trained to listen and respond to questions from the field pertaining to domestic preparedness issues, quickly retrieving the most current information relevant to the specific question. Skilled research staff and available subject matter experts in WMD materials and equipment provide detailed information on even the most esoteric questions. The Helpline provides information on the following subjects:

- Detection Equipment
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Decontamination Systems and Methods
- Physical Properties of WMD materials
- Signs and Symptoms of WMD Exposure
- Treatment of Exposure to WMD Materials
- Toxicology Information
- Federal Response Assets
- Applicable Laws and Regulations

HELPLINE NUMBER AND HOURS OF OPERATIONS

The Helpline number is **(800) 368-6498**. The Helpline is staffed weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. eastern standard time. On weekends, holidays and after business hours, callers can leave a voice mail message.